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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/918,185	07/30/2001	Alan Tsu-I Yaung	STL920000090US1	2703

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KONRAD RAYNES & VICTOR, LLP
ATTN: IBM54
315 SOUTH BEVERLY DRIVE, SUITE 210
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212

EXAMINER

VO, LILIAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2195

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p align="center">Office Action Summary</p>	Application No. 09/918,185		Applicant(s) YAUNG, ALAN TSU-I	
	Examiner Lillian Vo		Art Unit 2195	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-48 are pended for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-10, 13, 15, 17-26, 31, 33-42, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Putzolu et al. (hereafter Putzolu) (U.S. Patent No. 6681243), and in view of Flores et al. (hereafter Flores) (U.S. Patent No. 5630069).
4. Putzolu was cited in the previous office action.
5. As per claim 1, Putzolu teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a method for enabling access to a plurality of service engines, wherein each service engine enables access to service resources (abstract, col. 7, line 60 - col. 8, line 12), comprising:

each service class implementation provides an implementation of methods and objects from a same abstract service class (abstract, col. 7, line 41 – col. 8, line 10);

instantiating a service object for one service engine in response to at least one called method from one of the service class implementations, wherein the service object

includes information on the service engine (fig. 7; col. 7, lines 41-59; col. 14, lines 42-67); and

using the service object to access the requested information to return to the method call (col. 14, lines 42-67).

Putzolu did not specifically teach the steps of providing a plurality of service class implementations for service engines from different vendors; and receiving method calls from one service class implementation requesting information on service engine resources for one named service.

6. However, Flores teaches the steps of providing a plurality of service class implementations for service engines from different vendors; and receiving method calls from one service class implementation requesting information on service engine resources for one named service (col. 14, lines 42-67; col. 15, lines 1-67).

7. It would have been obvious to one of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teaching of Putzolu and Flores because Flores teaching the steps of providing a plurality of service class implementations for service engines from different vendors; and receiving method calls from one service class implementation requesting information on service engine resources for one named service would improve the integrity of Putzolu's system by providing to consultants, business process analysts, and application developers with a unified tool

with which to conduct business process analysis, design, and documentation (Flores, col. 1, lines 7-10).

8. As per claim 2, Flores teaches the method calls are received from at least one application program including methods from at least one of the service class implementations to access information on at least one service from the service objects (col. 15, lines 23-67).

9. As per claim 3, Flores teaches the services include workflow products from different vendors, wherein the workflow products comprise computer programs enabling implementation of a computer implemented workflow defining a series of processes to be performed by users at computers with respect to a computer implemented work item (col. 16, lines 1-67; col. 17, lines 1-67; col. 18, lines 1-67).

10. As per claim 4, Flores teaches the workflow service class implementations from different vendors each includes methods and objects from a same abstract workflow service class specifying methods and objects to include in all workflow service class implementations (col. 19, lines 51-67; col. 20, lines 1-67).

11. As per claim 5, Flores teaches abstract workflow service class specifies a method to determine a data store used by resources in the service, wherein the workflow service class implementations for the workflow services implement a method

to determine from the service object for the service the data store used by the service (col. 26, lines 19-67).

12. As per claim 6, Putzolu teaches the abstract workflow service class specifies methods to access information on workflows, workflow templates, and work-lists (col. 7, lines 41-60).

13. As per claim 7, Putzolu teaches the abstract workflow class specifies a method for a user to connect to the workflow service by passing user information that is used to authenticate the user to access the workflow service, and wherein the workflow service class implementations include methods to enable a connection between a user and one workflow service (col. 7, lines 41-60; col. 15, lines 50-67; col. 16, lines 17-37).

14. As per claim 8, Putzolu teaches receiving a method call for the user to connect specifying a user name, authentication information, and one service; instantiating a connection object if authentication passed including information on the specified user name, authentication information, and the service engine that can be accessed with the authentication; and returning a handle to the connection object for use in obtaining authentication information to access the service engine specified in the connection object (fig. 8; col. 16, lines 17-44).

15. As per claim 9, Putzolu teaches the connection object is stored in one service object (col. 17, lines 6-21).

16. As per claim 10, Putzolu teaches receiving one handle to one connection object; and returning the authentication information from the connection object for use in accessing the service resources (fig. 8; col. 16, lines 17-44).

17. As per claim 13, Flores teaches information on the service engine is maintained in the service object and wherein using the service object to access the requested information further comprises: if the method call requests information in the service object, returning the requested information from the service object (fig. 4).

18. As per claim 15, Putzolu teaches accessing authentication from the service object; providing the accessed authentication information to the service engine; using, with the service engine, the accessed authentication information to authenticate access, wherein the service engine executes the method to access the requested information if access is authenticated (fig. 8; col. 16, lines 17-44; col. 17, lines 6-21).

19. As per claims 17-26, 29, 31, 33-42, 45, and 47, they are rejected for the same reason as claims 1-10, 13, and 15 above.

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20. Claims 11-12, 14, 16, 27-28, 30, 32, 43-44, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Putzolu et al. (hereafter Putzolu) (U.S. Patent No. 6681243) in view of Flores et al. (hereafter Flores) (U.S. Patent No. 5630069), as applied in claims 1, 17, 33 above, and further in view of Wollrath et al. (hereafter Wollrath) (U.S. Patent No. 6487607).

21. Wollrath was cited in the previous office action.

22. As per claim 11, Putzolu and Flores teach the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1. Putzolu and Flores did not specifically teach the service class implementations for the services include both a client side service class and server side service class, wherein the client side service class includes methods and objects used to access information on resources available at one service engine, and wherein the server side service class includes methods and objects to access information on resources available at one service engine, wherein the client side service class methods are invoked on a client system and the service side service class methods are invoked on a server including the service engine.

23. However, Wollrath teaches the service class implementations for the services include both a client side service class and server side service class, wherein the client side service class includes methods and objects used to access information on resources available at one service engine, and wherein the server side service class

includes methods and objects to access information on resources available at one service engine, wherein the client side service class methods are invoked on a client system and the service side service class methods are invoked on a server including the service engine (figs. 2, 6; col. 4, lines 27-65col. 9, lines 50-67).

24. It would have been obvious to one of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teaching of Putzolu, Flores and Wollrath because Wollrath teaching of the service class implementations for the services include both a client side service class and server side service class, wherein the client side service class includes methods and objects used to access information on resources available at one service engine, and wherein the server side service class includes methods and objects to access information on resources available at one service engine, wherein the client side service class methods are invoked on a client system and the service side service class methods are invoked on a server including the service engine would improve the integrity of Putzolu and Flores's system by providing an advantage of not being type-specific so that it may invoke methods of varying types of remote objects (Wollrath, col. 9, lines 60-63).

25. As per claim 12, Wollrath teaches a call to one method in the client side service class implementation on the client transfers the called method to the server, wherein the called method is executed on the server (col. 4, lines 27-44).

26. As per claim 14, Wollrath teaches if the method call requests information not included in the service object, executing the method to access the requested information from the service engine (fig. 6; col. 9, lines 50-67).

27. As per claim 16, Wollrath teaches accessing the requested information from the service engine further comprises: translating the method to native code capable of being executed by the service engine (abstract; col. 4, lines 39-44; col. 9, lines 50-67).

28. As per claims 27-28, 30, 32, 43-44, 46, and 48, they are rejected for the same reason as claims 11-12, and 16 above.

Response to Arguments

29. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-48 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

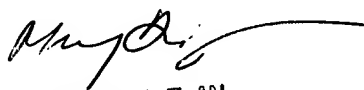
Conclusion

30. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lillian Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272-3774. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 7AM- 4:30 PM, F 7AM- 3:30 PM.

31. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

32. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lillian Vo
Examiner
Art Unit 2195


MENG-AL T. AN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2160